

leaves the nation's capital with essentially half of a revival, and would be tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, are ready for residential and commercial redevelopment.

There is no reason to extend incentives to the other large empowerment zone cities but not to the nation's capital, which lacks many of the advantages of other cities. Like the health of many other cities, the District's fiscal health has improved since the tax incentives were established in 1997, but the incentives continue to be indispensable for ensuring that lower-income areas of the city are part of the city's economic progress. It would be tragic to single out the nation's capital as the only empowerment zone city not to be renewed just as the eastern sections of the city are about to take off. As essential as the federal incentives have been, their costs have been de minimis compared to the billions of dollars in construction, new local revenue and new taxpayers the incentives have generated. They deserve to be extended.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL CIGAR BOX FESTIVAL

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the York Emporium as it hosts its fourth annual Pennsylvania Cigar Box Guitar Festival in York Pennsylvania.

The cigar box guitar is a traditional American instrument, with roots funning through the Civil War, the Great Depression, and the Panic of 1983. It harkens back to a time when folks would make-do with musical instruments they had constructed with their own hands, using found objects.

The annual Pennsylvania Cigar Box Guitar Festival, now in its 4th year, celebrates this homegrown musical style and the ingenuity of its musicians with the largest music festival of its kind. It features performers from Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, upstate New York and Pennsylvania. The festival brings tourists from throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states. In recent years, the festival has even seen the arrival of international visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues in recognizing the uniquely American attributes that this festival celebrates.

HONORING JAMES K. BAKER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary accomplishments of one of my constituents, James K. Baker of Columbus, Indiana.

James Baker became president and chief executive officer of Arvin Industries in 1981 and served until his retirement in 1998. During James' stewardship of the company, Arvin Industries was noted for its aggressive pursuit

and success in building a globalized sales and supply infrastructure as the auto industry diversified globally in the 1980s.

In addition to building a Fortune 500 company, James served from 1990–1991 as the chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was a former chairman of the DePauw University Board of Trustees, his alma mater, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the 2003 Indiana Government Efficiency Commission. James was a strong advocate of education reform efforts and higher educational standards as a means of building and sustaining a global and competitive workforce in our communities across the State. I know Jim was particularly proud of his involvement as a Member of the Board of Trustees with the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, an Indianapolis charter school.

James Baker was my friend and an inspiration to people across the Hoosier State. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to keep his wife, Beverly, in your thoughts and prayers as we celebrate the life of James Baker.

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF SERVICE: PEGGY LYNCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS OF SAINT PAUL AND RAMSEY COUNTY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the inspiring career of Ms. Peggy Lynch, a leader in preservation of parks and green space, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director from Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

The Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County has its origins in a group of citizens who banded together to protect Hidden Falls—Crosby Lake Regional Park in 1984 from developers proposing to build housing within the park. After the housing proposal was defeated, the group continued to meet, and a permanent organization was established in 1985 with a grant from the Saint Paul Foundation. Peggy Lynch co-founded the organization and served as Executive Director for the next 28 years. Today, because of Peggy's extraordinary persistence and advocacy for the outdoors, the organization has led development and preservation of parks across the east metro region and earned her the title the "Conscience of the Parks."

Thanks to Peggy Lynch's vision, the organization achieved foundational work to protect public access to green space. In 1985 the group initiated a study of parks in Saint Paul and Ramsey County during a period of intense developer interest in prime park land. At the time, there were few local park commissions and developers had no obligation to contribute to the park system. Cities such as Saint Paul sold parkland for a dollar per parcel. As a result of a study by the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, Park Commissions in Saint Paul and Ramsey County were established. The amendment of the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County charters for "no net loss" of parkland were approved. These actions built a system to preserve and add parkland for public use.

Additionally, Peggy and Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County have helped develop and support the environment by promoting appreciation for parks and open space through quality parks, trails, and bikeways. Through educational, community, and corporate outreach programs, they have provided access to recreational opportunities to communities who otherwise may not have the opportunity to experience it.

Peggy's influence brought increased recognition and elevated the importance of preserving the great outdoors for present and future generations to come. Her work along with the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County are legacies that will live on in the organization's work advocating for the environment in the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Ms. Peggy Lynch, a leader in the environmental community, I am pleased to submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of her retirement as Executive Director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF DR. REED BELL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's Dr. Reed Bell, who passed away on July 28, 2013. Dr. Bell's mission was to better the lives of children, and still today, his name is synonymous with pediatric health. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of this talented, kind-hearted man.

Dr. Bell was born on December 24, 1926 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Growing up, he attended Pensacola High School, where he was a model scholar-athlete. He was the captain of both the football and basketball teams, elected king of the high school's coronation, and graduated as Salutatorian. Dr. Bell then took his athletic talents to the University of Florida, where he was awarded a football scholarship. However, shortly thereafter, he answered the call of his Nation by serving in World War II. When he returned home, Dr. Bell opted to attend the University of the South, where he further applied his natural leadership abilities by again captaining both the basketball and football teams.

Despite his athletic successes, Dr. Bell was destined to serve his community through his knowledge of medicine and his love of children. He graduated from Duke's College of Medicine in 1953 and performed his residency in pediatrics and fellowship in endocrinology at Baylor University in 1957. Returning to his native Pensacola, Dr. Bell began practicing as a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric endocrinologist. In 1969, however, Dr. Bell founded the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, the only facility of its kind in the area. To support this great endeavor, founded at the hospital where he himself was born over forty years prior, he served as the Medical Director, formed a pediatric residency program, and established a neonatal intensive care unit to better serve the children of our community. In a